

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 02337 281149Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5795

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 2337

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ECIN, EGEN, XY

SUBJECT: ECOWAS STUDY

REF: STATE 159681

1. RESPONSES KEYED TO PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL
 - A. SIERRA LEONE IS UNLIKELY TO DIVERT SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES FROM DOMESTIC PROBLEMS TO ECOWAS DEVELOPMENT.
 - B. COMMITMENTS TO SMALLER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (E.G. MANO RIVER UNION WITH LIBERIA) WILL NOT CONFLICT WITH ECOWAS.
 - C. THE WEST AFRICAN CLEARING HOUSE CAN ASSIST IN OVERCOMING THE PROBLEMS OF LACK OF COMMON CURRENCY BY PROVIDING A CENTRAL ORGANIZATION AND UNIFORM UNITS OF ACCOUNT SUCH AS S.D.R.'S. WACH IS BASED IN FREETOWN.
 - D. ALL COMMUNICATIONS LINKS AND THE METHODS OF MAINTANENCE MUST BE IMPROVED.
 - E. SIERRA LEONE'S TRADE STRUCTURE IS COMPETITIVE WITH OTHER ECOWAS MEMBERS.
 - F. DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN SIERRA LEONE WILL PROBABLY INCREASE COMPETITIVE NATURE OF THE ECONOMY IN RELATION TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. SIERRA LEONE WOULD BE UNWILLING TO MODIFY EXISTING STRUCTURES OR TRENDS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE ECOWAS IF THIS WILL ENTAIL COSTS TO SIERRA LEONE.

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- G. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT SIERRA LEONE COULD MEET MORE THAN TOKEN FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO ECOWAS.
- H. ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF GOSL REVENUE DERIVED FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES AND OTHER TRADE RELATED TAXES.
- I. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER OR NOT THE FUND WILL BE CAPABLE OF ADEQUATELY COMPENSATING FOR LOSS OF CUSTOMS REVENUE AND CORRECTING UNBALANCED DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA.

J. EMBASSY CONSIDERS ECOWAS HOPES OF MAINTAINING SCHEDULE
OVER-OPTIMISTIC.

K. IT IS LIKELY THAT ECOWAS WILL PROMOTE INCREASED U.S.
TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE AREA.

L. YES. FUND FOR COOPERATION, COMPENSATION, AND DEVELOPMENT
COULD BECOME A POTENTIAL VEHICLE FOR AID TO WEST AFRICAN REGION.
NORTH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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